

**REMARKS****35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections**

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over WO 97/16263 published in the name of Hansmann for the reasons of record stated on page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over GB 2,204,321 published in the name of Chavannes for the reasons of record stated on page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,529,788 issued to DeSenna for the reasons of record stated on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,448,750 issued to Fuesting for the reasons of record stated on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,308,229 issued to Voit for the reasons of record stated on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,464,477 issued to Awad for the reasons of record stated on page 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,770,550 issued to Motson for the reasons of record stated on page 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,372,741 issued to Tomaszewski for the reasons of record stated on page 5 of the Office Action.

Claims 17 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,350,457 issued to Kitazawa et al. for the reasons of record stated on page 5 of the Office Action.

The claims of the instant application have been amended to more specifically define Applicants' invention. Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 be reconsidered and withdrawn and the claims allowed.

**SUMMARY**

Applicants respectfully request a three-month extension of time to respond to this Office Action. Please charge any fees associated with this response to Deposit Account No.: 16-2480. New Claims 35 - 37 are added herewith. No new matter is added. Claim 23 is cancelled herewith without prejudice. As the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 have been overcome, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Respectfully submitted,  
FOR: JEAN-FRANCOIS ET AL.;

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JUL 30 2003  
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July 29, 2003  
Cincinnati, Ohio